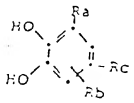
34. A pharmaceutical composition for treating depression comprising an effective amount of a compound of the formula



Ia

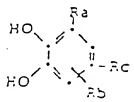
wherein Ra is nitro or cyano, Rb is hydrogen or halogen, Rc is halogen, nitro, cyano or the group $-(A)_n-(Q)_m-R^1$ or $-(A)_n-Q-R^2$, A is vinylene optionally substituted by lower alkyl, n is the integer 0 or 1, m is the integer 0 or 1, R^1 is the group $-COR^3$, an aromatic carbocyclic group, or an aromatic or partially unsaturated heterocyclic group attached via a carbon atom, R^2 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted, saturated or partially unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue, R^3 is hydroxy, amino, an optionally substituted, saturated or partially unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue attached via an oxygen atom or an imino or lower alkylimino group or a saturated, N-containing heterocyclic group attached via a ring nitrogen atom, Q is the group -CO- or $>C=N(Z)_p-R^4$, Z is an oxygen atom or an imino group, p is the integer 0 or 1 and R^4 is hydrogen or a saturated or partially unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue which is optionally substituted and which is optionally attached via a carbonyl group,

or an ester or ether derivative thereof which is hydrolyzable under physiological conditions or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a therapeutically inert carrier

material.

35. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34, wherein the compound of formula Ia is 3,4-dihydroxy-4'-methyl-5-nitrobenzophenone.

36. A pharmaceutical composition for treating Parkinson's disease comprising L-dopa, a peripheral decarboxylase inhibitor, a compound of the formula



Ia

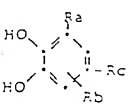
wherein Ra is nitro or cyano, Rb is hydrogen or halogen, Rc is halogen, nitro, cyano or the group $-(A)_n-(Q)_m-R^1$ or $-(A)_n-Q-R^2$, A is vinylene optionally substituted by lower alkyl, n is the integer 0 or 1, m is the integer 0 or 1, R^1 is the group $-COR^3$, an aromatic carbocyclic group, or an aromatic or partially unsaturated heterocyclic group attached via a carbon atom, R^2 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted, saturated or partially unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue, R^3 is hydroxy, amino, an optionally substituted, saturated or partially unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue attached via an oxygen atom or an imino or lower alkylimino group or a saturated, N-containing heterocyclic group attached via a ring nitrogen atom, Q is the group -CO- or $>C=N(Z)_p-R^4$, Z is an oxygen atom or an imino group, p is the integer 0 or 1 and R^4 is hydrogen or a saturated or partially unsaturated

lower hydrocarbon residue which is optionally substituted and which is optionally attached via a carbonyl group,

or an ester or ether derivative thereof which is hydrolyzable under physiological conditions or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a therapeutically inert carrier material.

37. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 36, wherein the compound of formula Ia is 3,4-dihydroxy-4'-methyl-5-nitrobenzophenone.

38. A pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting catechol-O-methyl-transferase, said composition comprising a catechol-O-methyl-transferase inhibiting amount of a compound of the formula



Ia

wherein Ra is nitro or cyano, Rb is hydrogen or halogen, Rc is halogen, nitro, cyano or the group $-(A)_n-(Q)_m-R^1$ or $-(A)_n-Q-R^2$, A is vinylene optionally substituted by lower alkyl, n is the integer 0 or 1, m is the integer 0 or 1, R^1 is the group $-COR^3$, an aromatic carbocyclic group, or an aromatic or partially unsaturated heterocyclic group attached via a carbon atom, R^2 is hydrogen or an optionally substituted, saturated or partially unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue, R^3 is hydroxy, amino, an optionally substituted, saturated or partially

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unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue attached via an oxygen atom or an imino or lower alkylimino group or a saturated, N-containing heterocyclic group attached via a ring nitrogen atom, Q is the group -CO- or >C=N(Z)$_p$-R^4, Z is an oxygen atom or an imino group, p is the integer 0 or 1 and R^4 is hydrogen or a saturated or partially unsaturated lower hydrocarbon residue which is optionally substituted and which is optionally attached via a carbonyl group,

or an ester or ether derivative thereof which is hydrolyzable under physiological conditions or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a therapeutically inert carrier material.

~~39~~. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~38~~, wherein the compound of formula Ia is 3,4-dihydroxy-4'-methyl-5-nitrobenzophenone.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow is courteously requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-18, drawn to chemical compounds and compositions, classified in Class 548, 560, 562, 504 and 568, subclass 248+, 30+, 440+, 809+.

Group II: Claims 19-22, drawn to method of treating depression, classified in Class 514, subclass 247+.